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Letter dated 8 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 7 September 2015, which marked 70 years since the United States military forces have occupied south Korea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement issued 7 September 2015 by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The withdrawal of United States forces from south Korea is a requirement of the times

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) issued a statement on Monday, 7 September 2015, which marked 70 years since the United States occupied south Korea.

"The United States has persisted in its reckless hostile moves to perpetuate Korea's division and stifle the DPRK, contrary to the unanimous will of all Koreans, who have aspired to peace and reunification since its occupation of south Korea", the statement said, and went on:

> "Behind the Korean war and all the armed conflicts and skirmishes that have broken out on the Korean Peninsula for the past 70 years was the United States, which has deployed huge forces in south Korea to stage provocative military actions.
>
> "The United States-south Korea joint military drills have become a main factor aggravating confrontation and distrust not only between the DPRK and the United States, but also between the north and the south of Korea.
>
> "The risky war games have entered an extremely reckless phase of putting into practice such a scenario for a surprise preemptive attack upon the DPRK, as OPLAN 5015 made public a short time ago.
>
> "The United States forces' presence in south Korea has become a pretext for the ceaseless north-targeted sabre-rattling in south Korea.
>
> "The United States has sought a pretext for an arms buildup, pursuant to its 'strategy of rebalancing forces' in the Asia-Pacific to dominate the world.
>
> "That is why it has periodically staged provocative military actions to keep up tensions on the Korean Peninsula.
>
> "As long as the United States has its huge forces in south Korea, seizing the prerogative of the supreme command of the south Korean army, north-south relations are bound to be influenced by the United States.
>
> "As urged by the resolution adopted at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the withdrawal of United States forces from south Korea has become a requirement of the times, which brooks no further delay.
>
> "As the agreement reached at the north-south high-level urgent contact showed that the north and the south are capable of tiding over the crisis and protecting peace in the spirit of 'By Our Nation Itself', such a trite pretext by

the United States — that its forces' presence in south Korea 'ensures stability on the Korean Peninsula' — is no longer workable.

"If the United States does not withdraw its armed forces from south Korea and continues to wage provocative military actions against the DPRK, it may lead to another incident of unknown origin that could trigger an armed conflict, for which the United States will be held fully and seriously accountable."